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Attorney's Docket Number 045090/196876

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OFFICIAL**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: FARAMARZ FARAH

Serial No.: 09/803,342

Group Art Unit: 2874

Filed: 9 March 2001

Examiner: Ullah, Akm Enayct

For: INTEGRATED OPTICAL CIRCUITS

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA

RESPONSE/REMARKS

This is in response to the Official Action mailed 20 February 2004. All of the claims in the application were rejected over the cited prior art. Claims 97-117 remain in the application. All other claims were cancelled as relating to non-elected inventions.

Claims 97-117 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,480,687 (Heming et al) in view of U.S. Patent 5,887,089 (Deacon et al), U.S. Patent 5,363,398 (Glass et al), or U.S. Patent 5,249,195 (Feldman et al). Applicant traverses these rejections in view of the following remarks.

The examiner's position is that Heming et al "disclose the gist of the invention." He further states: "Note that in any optical interconnect device having sol-gel based material used for active region which is an inherent of this reference." The examiner goes on to say "One of ordinary skill in the art would have found it an obvious design choice to incorporate an optoelectronic device having flexible substrate and optical interconnect comprising sol-gel material formed on the flexible material which would include point to point waveguides, port to multipoint, multipoint to multipoint waveguides or in combination, as it is claimed in Heming et al in view of the aforementioned references."

In the prior art non-sol-gel optical interconnects, the base material is normally glass or another silica-based material. In providing an active optical interconnect in these prior art materials, the active region is normally provided by doping the base material with a rare earth ion such as erbium or ytterbium, which chemically bonds with the base material.